



April 20, 2004

## **Pawtucket man admits cocaine, crack cocaine trafficking**

**Robert J. Evans**, 33, of Pawtucket, has pleaded guilty to federal cocaine-trafficking charges, admitting that he possessed nearly a kilogram of cocaine powder and 123 grams of crack cocaine on June 5 when **Pawtucket** and **East Providence Police** arrested him. Another defendant from the same investigation, **Patricia Vicente**, 23, of Pawtucket, has pleaded guilty to cocaine trafficking and is serving a 30-month federal prison sentence.

The Office of the United States Attorney announced Evans' guilty plea, which the defendant entered before U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi yesterday in U.S. District Court, Providence. Evans, of 75 Trenton Street, first floor, is detained in federal custody pending sentencing, which is scheduled for June 23.

At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenneth P. Madden said that, had the case gone to trial, the government would have proven that, on June 5 investigators followed Vicente from her home at 140 Mineral Spring Avenue into East Providence, suspecting that she was transporting cocaine to a customer, in a deal that Evans had arranged. Officers stopped her car on North Broadway and confiscated nearly a half-kilogram of cocaine that was on the front passenger seat of the car.

Pawtucket Police officers then went to Vicente's apartment at 140 Mineral Spring Avenue and saw Evans leaving the apartment, carrying a bag. He threw the bag back into the apartment and attempted to flee. Officers arrested him after a brief chase, confiscating \$3,276

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that he had on him. In the bag, police found 123 grams of crack cocaine, 176 grams of cocaine powder, approximately \$12,000 in cash, and a scale. At Evans' apartment at 75 Trenton Street, police found an additional 794 grams of cocaine powder.

Evans pleaded guilty to two charges: possessing with intent to distribute more than 50 grams of cocaine base (crack) and possessing with intent to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine (powder). The statutory maximum penalty for the crack offense is life imprisonment and a \$4,000,000 fine, with a minimum sentence of ten years imprisonment. The statutory maximum penalty for the cocaine powder offense is 40 years imprisonment and a \$2,000,000 fine, with a minimum sentence of five years imprisonment. Federal sentencing is determined on the basis of guidelines that rely on such factors as the specific nature of an offense and a defendant's criminal background, if any.

In December, Vicente pleaded guilty to possessing with intent to distribute cocaine. On March 12, Judge Lisi sentenced her to 30 months in federal prison, with a recommendation to the Bureau of Prisons that she be assigned to a shock incarceration program, also known as boot camp.

**East Providence Police** and **Pawtucket Police** investigated the case, with assistance from the **Drug Enforcement Administration**. Assistant U.S. Attorney Madden is prosecuting it.

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Contact: 401-528-5224

E-mail: [thomas.connell@usdoj.gov](mailto:thomas.connell@usdoj.gov)